Satellite based Reconnaissance and Surveillance System

1779. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous Satellite-based Reconnaissance and Surveillance System, a Rs. 1050 crore joint ISRO-DRDO project to augment surveillance over the country's airspace, is running behind schedule; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when it is now likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has undertaken a programme for Satellite Based Surveillance and reconnaissance (SBS) for ground surveillance. Programme is in advanced stage of development and is planned to be completed by January 2007. Validation of Technologies has taken more time than anticipated.

(b) The project is likely to be completed by January 2007.

Leucoderma drug developed by DARL

†1780. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subordinate office of the Ministry, DARL (Defence Agro Research Laboratory), Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal has developed a medicine for Leucoderma and its production and sale rights have been handed over to a private company;

(b) if so, the name of that private company and whether that company has started its production; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the arrangements made for the availability of the said medicine to the patients who were getting this medicine from DARL?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Defence Agriculture Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh, a laboratory of Defence R&D Organisation has developed a herbal medicine for Leucoderma.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The technology has been transferred to M/s AIMIL., Pharmaceutical Pvt. Ltd. The company is in the process of setting up its production line. At present medicine is being made available to patients by DARL Pithoragarh.

Defence deal by M/s Denel

1781. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the news reports appearing the South African newspapers relating to the payment of commission by Denel to British Company Varas Associates for procuring confidential documents for a sale of Anti-Material Rifle to India;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether temporary freeze on the above deal has since been lifted and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Based on the information furnished by M/s Denel, South Africa, there is *prima facie* evidence of violation of clauses relating to use of undue influence and agents/agency commission, as contained in the contracts of Anti Material Rifles (AMRs) signed in 2002. A decision has been taken to initiate action to cancel all contracts entered into with M/s Denel. The contract signed on 7-3-2005 for procurement of 400 AMR has been cancelled. The matter was referred to the CBI for investigation. An FIR has also been filed by the CBI in the matter, *inter-alia*, against unknown public servants.

Lifting of ban by Switzerland on export of military material

1782. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Switzerland lifted ban on the export of military material to India which was imposed in 1998 following Pokhran tests;